

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2010

Chairman Orphal called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Chairman Lyn Orphal; Randy Donley; Sandra Salgado and Mary Donner. Mary McCann arrived at 8:30a.m. Virginia Peschke and Anna May Miller were absent. Also present: County Board Chairman, Ken Koehler; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Carl Martens, Workforce Investment Board; Pat McNulty, Health; Sandy Lewis, Todd Schroll and Jane Wacker, Mental Health Board; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, County Board Member; interested public and the press.

Lyn Orphal, Chairman	
Mary L. Donner	Randy Donley
Mary T. McCann	Anna May Miller
Virginia Peschke	Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes of July 12, 2010 and the Joint Meeting for Public Health and Human Services Committee and Human Resource Committee of July 12, 2010. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to approve the minutes as submitted. Both sets of minutes were approved with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion-UIC/McCullom Lake (as needed): This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

McHenry County Housing Authority Appointment: Cathryn J. Perfetti: Chairman Orphal stated that Ms. Perfetti has not arrived yet so they will review the budgets prior to the interview of Ms. Perfetti.

FY10-11 Budget Review (not in packet): Mr. Sarbaugh joined committee members to review the budgets for Senior Services and the Mental Health Board.

Senior Services: Committee members were reminded that the Senior Services Commission acts like a pass through fund and this is a separate fund for support of seniors in the County. The levy has remained the same. There is a small amount of income from interest being reported. Under State Statute, these funds can only be used for Senior Services projects. There are no funds spent on staff. The awards for the grants are scheduled to take place on August 20, 2010. The interest income will be added to fund enhancement. After review, Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend approval of the FY10/11 budget for the Seniro Services Grant Commission and forwarded to the Finance and Audit Committee for review. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Ms. McCann arrived at 8:30a.m.

Mental Health Board: Sandy Lewis, Todd Schroll and Jane Wacker joined committee members for presentation of their FY10/11 budget for the Mental Health Board. Mr. Sarbaugh stated that they have done a great job in condensing their program description to one page. He requested committee members review the highlights and goals of the department. This department has various separate funds. Fund 30 ended FY09 with a fund balance. The fund is in balance. This fund grew by \$885,700 for expenditures. Since they have their own funding they are not as restricted. They are trying to close out the Mental Health Capital Development Fund. They can only spend what remains in the budget. These funds will be used to either repaint or improvements to their facility. The new accounting standards requests that the special funds be dwindled down. Because of changes to GASB, there will be some changes to the funds in the future. Committee members were reminded that some grants have different match requirements. Some of the grants require they put more into the match at the end of the grant cycle. There is a total budget growth for the Mental Health Board of \$285,668 or 2.334%. After review, Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to recommend approval of the FY10/11 budget and the budget Forwarded to the Finance and Audit Committee for review.

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McHenry County Housing Authority Appointment: Cathryn J. Perfetti: Ms. Perfetti joined committee members for consideration of an appointment to the McHenry County Housing Authority. This appointment is to fulfill a resignation that occurred on the board. Ms. Salgado stated she would be abstaining from the vote as she works with Ms. Perfetti though she stated that Ms. Perfetti would be a good fit for this appointment. After discussion, Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann to recommend the appointment of Ms. Cathryn J. Perfetti to the McHenry County Housing Authority with a term to expire on June 1, 2013. The motion carried with four ayes (Donley, Donner, McCann, Orphal) and one abstain (Salgado)

Mr. Carl Martens joined committee members to provide a Resolution authorizing the designation of the week of August 29th, 2010 as "Workforce Development Week". Chairman Orphal stated that since this Resolution was not on the agenda the committee could not vote on it but the committee could give direction to take this to the County Board for consideration. The same Resolution has been done for the past three or four years. Committee members directed staff to forward the Resolution authorizing the designation of the week of August 29, 2010 as "Workforce Development Week" to the County Board for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS CON'T

Discussion – UIC/McCullom Lake (as needed): Chairman Koehler, Mr. McNulty and Ms. Rein joined committee members to provide and discuss an update regarding the McCullom Lake issue. A conference call meeting was held recently with staff, Chairman Orphal, Chairman Koehler, Representatives from McCullom Lake and calls to the Illinois Water Survey and Illinois Department of Environmental Health. The bottom line is that the Health Department has completed studies of McCullom Lake since 2006, with tests showing no contamination to the Lake or around the Lake. Any contamination at the facilities in the area would not have gone towards the Lake as the Aquifers move away from the Lake. McCullom Lake officials would like all the wells in the area tested for contamination. These tests cost approximately \$110 per well. Some of the residents may not want their well tested. If the Health Department tests these wells, the results could be obtained through a Freedom of Information request (FIOA). This would require buy in by McCullom Lake Officials and its residents. The County would/could help with some of the costs of this project. They would only test for the contaminants that came from these former plants. They are unable to test for every contaminant out there. The tests that have been completed so far have tested for 24 volatile organic compounds and the tests are limited to these compounds, however, this test is not a normal test that would be normally done when testing groundwater. No one knows what happened in this area and what the cause of these cancers are. They could have been caused by another industry or issue in the area. They do not believe there has been any contamination to the water as tests have shown there are no contaminants in the aquifer. The second issue is the report created by a professor from Columbia University that claims there is a cancer cluster in the area. They questioned if this report should be placed on our website. Committee members were informed there is no legal problem with placing this on the webpage. This could indicate that the data used is accurate and there is no assurance that is a fact. Since this report was created for the plaintiff in a lawsuit you would expect the information to be in the plaintiff's favor. The County does not usually post separate studies and this data has not been accepted by the Illinois Department of Health Cancer Registry. There is no obligation to place this study on our site and it is not up to the County to determine if this study is accurate. The opposing side in the lawsuit could come up with a conflicting study and would we then have to put that study up on the website as well. It was suggested that this information be posted, as a link, with a disclaimer that the County does not support this information one way or another. Concern was voiced that the County needs to post both sides of the issue and they questioned how much information should be put out there. The Health Department wants to stick with the known facts and put factual information on their site. Committee members were reminded that both sides have conflicting experts and each study will depend what has been looked at. The County does not want to accept these studies as their own as it could open itself up to possible litigation so they must be careful what is posted on its site. Some committee members stated that they don't know if there is any value to these reports but if they have information they should post it with a disclaimer that this is not the County's study nor does the County agree or disagree with its validity. There is information on the website under groundwater contamination as well as an area specifically for McCullom Lake. Committee members were reminded that we don't know what happened in McCullom Lake 30 years ago and there is no way to determine where or what caused any cancer clusters, if they exist. It is not the County's job to find out the cause of these cancers. Our concern is how to help the homeowners to move forward from here and prove that their area's water and air are safe. There has been a lot of professional hired to monitor all around the area, quarterly and this is ongoing. Committee members noted

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that McCullom Lake should be taking the lead in this issue with the county assisting, if possible. This is a difficult issue as no one seems to know what exactly they should be testing for. It is up to the plaintiffs to prove where the contamination came from. The County does not know. Committee members questioned how many residents of McCullom Lake want to have their wells tested. This is unknown. Some in the area just want this issue to die down. Committee members suggested that other County Board members be asked what they would like to see done and to ask the Village if they plan to put a link on their website and to discuss this further at the next committee meeting that has been scheduled for August 25th.

Ms. Salgado left committee at 9:32a.m.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE CON'T

Workforce Network/WIB: none.

Board of Health: Mr. McNulty informed committee members that they have hired a new Veterinarian for Animal Control. A press release will be sent out with this information. A meeting was held with Dr. Mehanovic who has agreed to work with the new doctor and phase out his contract.

Last week the department was notified of a bat exposure at a teen camp in Ingleside Illinois. The bat was not caught so all 16 families have started the shot series for this exposure. They stated it was better safe than face the consequences of the alternative.

Committee members were informed that the Children's Health Fair was a success. This event was a collaborative effort of many groups in the County.

Mental Health Board: Ms. Donner reported that on Monday there was a seminar held at the Shah Center on Cultural and Linguistic Competency. This event highlighted the need to accept differences through education. She stated it was a very interesting seminar.

Housing Authority: See above.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Committee members were reminded that next Friday is the all day event for Senior Services to review their grant requests. Lunch will be served to the commission members.

VAC: Committee members were reminded that the VAC report has been placed in their mailboxes.

Mr. Donley stated that his business received a call stating that all Health Certificate Holders must now place a special medical kit next to their licenses in their facility. They indicated that this was a new OSHA requirement. The business had to agree to accept this kit and be billed later. Mr. Donley stated that he called the Health Department to find out if this was now required and found out it is a scam and they are not required. He stated that a press release should be sent out informing the public of this scam.

Committee members were informed that there seems to be an increase of "puppy mills" in the county. Complaints are being received on this issue. The State is behind in their inspections on these businesses. Committee members were asked to keep an eye on this issue before it becomes a bigger problem. It was noted that with the increase of "no kill" organizations this seems to be an increasing problem.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS, AS APPLICABLE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann to adjourn the meeting at 9:45a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Recommend the appointment of Cathryn J. Perfetti to the McHenry County Housing Authority